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Inspiring Style for Southern Weddings



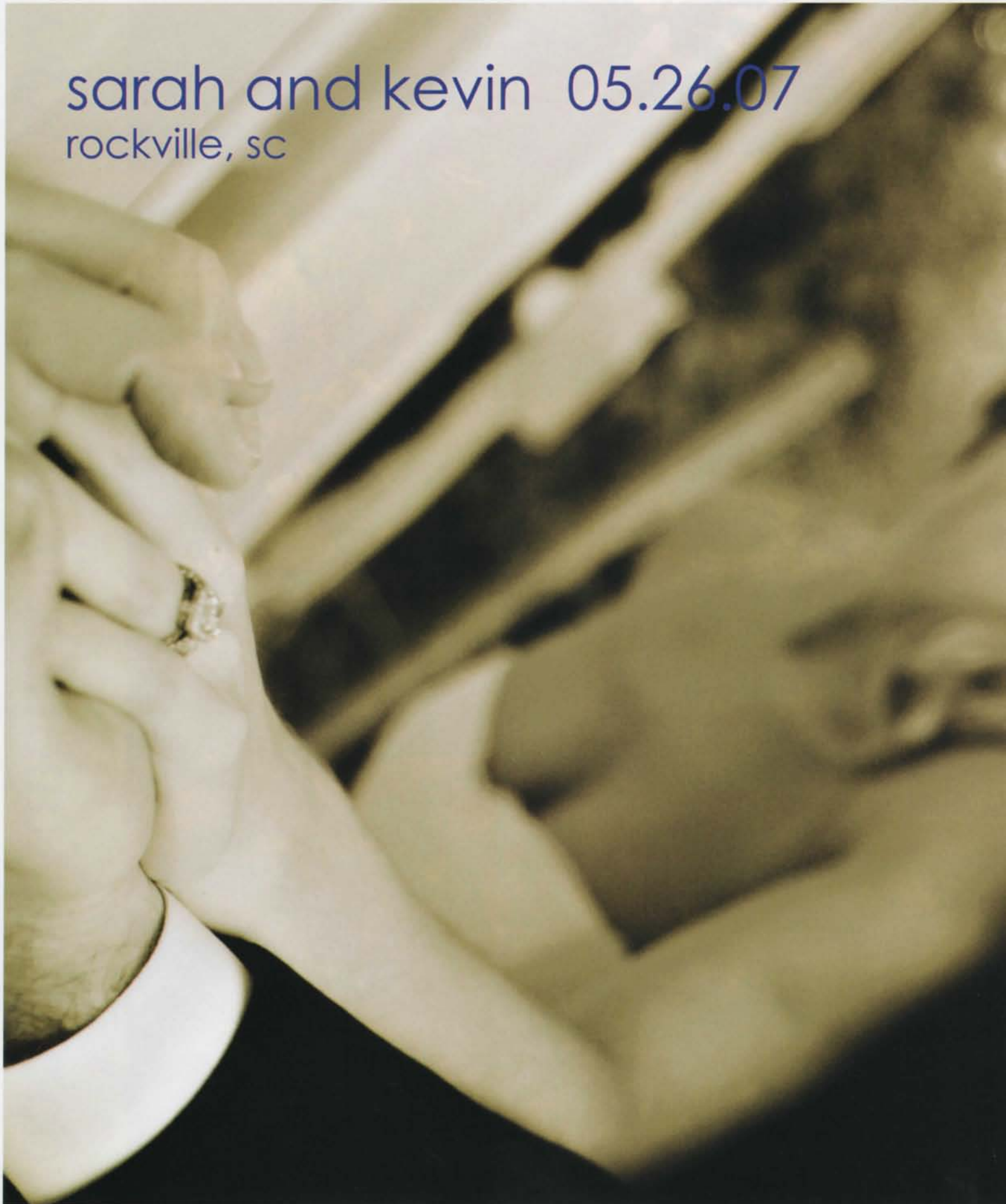
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sarah and kevin 05.26.07  
rockville, sc





Generally, domestic flights are pretty uneventful. The safety demonstrations, take off and small talk with a fellow traveler are about as exciting as it gets. Sarah Glenn, project manager for a real estate marketing firm, thought the flight from Manhattan to Charleston for Christmas might be a good time to unwind. To the contrary, as she stood in line to board the plane, she held the ticket in her hand that would seat her next to the man she would eventually marry. Likewise, Kevin Smith boarded imagining the highlight of his flight would be an evening cocktail and a chance to rest after a long week of work as a research analyst for an investment bank. He too was blithely unaware that he was about to sit next to the woman who would soon have his heart.

"I saw him and immediately thought he was cute," Sarah recalls. "When I boarded the plane it was hard to read the seat numbers in the dim light, so when I found mine, I was excited to look up and see he was next to me. Two hours later, we were still talking." Both Sarah and Kevin's parents had retired in Charleston, SC, and Sarah, having gone to college in Charleston, was eager to tell Kevin about the city. "I drew a map for him explaining great places to eat and how to navigate around the city, comparing it to Manhattan. I guess I was also trying to find out if his parent's house was close to mine!" They found they had several things in common. Each was a middle child and both had adventurous personalities that made them leave the comforts of home and move to New York. Sarah mentioned she would be moving soon, so Kevin took the opportunity to get her number, telling her he'd be happy to help.

The following week, back in New York, Sarah and Kevin went on their first date and Kevin admits to being incredibly nervous. Sarah laughs as she remembers, "We were leaving the restaurant, and he started to walk out the back and got all turned around." Just before their fourth date, Kevin asked Sarah to join him on an extended weekend in Bermuda. "I wanted to say yes immediately, but ran it by my girlfriends to get their input," Sarah says. "Needless to say, I was in Bermuda a few weeks later."

The vacation proved a turning point in their new relationship. The weather was cloudy each day, but that didn't stop Sarah and Kevin from exploring. "We found we had so much in common and by the end of the trip, the lives we were each planning separately, we began to plan together," says Sarah. After their weekend getaway, the couple became inseparable and even began discussing marriage. Sarah's brother was planning his own wedding in Charleston, so they decided to wait until after his big day to get engaged. Not wanting to wait a minute more, Kevin actually planned to propose the morning after. The wedding had its fair share of champagne toasts, so when Kevin asked Sarah to go for a rigorous morning jog the next morning, Sarah was reluctant, to say the least. "I was complaining the whole time saying I would rather walk and didn't want to huff it up the bridge," Sarah recalls. "So the proposal that was supposed to take place at the top of the bridge overlooking a beautiful view, ended up happening at the base of the bridge in a parking lot!"

Sarah and Kevin briefly considered a New York wedding, but ultimately decided to celebrate in Charleston on Memorial Day weekend. A year earlier, her brother had a fabulous downtown Charleston wedding, so Sarah decided on a Lowcountry setting just 45 minutes south of Charleston in the charming town of Rockville. Sarah's parents had recently built a home there on the



Intracoastal Waterway, and the view from their large lawn would be the perfect setting for the evening. Sarah decided to have their ceremony in the picturesque white chapel less than a block from her parent's house. With locations secure, Sarah and her mother began working on all the details. They rented trolleys to drive people from Charleston to Rockville on the day of the wedding and arranged for hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the reception site while mingling guests enjoyed the view.

Sarah met Kevin at the altar wearing a unique strapless gown by designer Junko Yoshioka accompanied by the ethereal theme music to the film *Forrest Gump*. Sarah held a bright array of pink flowers, while the chapel was delicately decorated with wreaths and raffia accenting the large windows and charm of the historic sanctuary. The bride and groom each had four attendants and they each chose close friends to be honorary attendants, recognizing their special friendships. Kevin's grandmother recited the Irish Blessing and other family members contributed as well, with songs and the reading of William Shakespeare's *Sonnet 116*.



Following the ceremony, the wedding party and guests strolled down the oak-lined streets draped in Spanish moss to the reception, where Sarah and Kevin opened the celebration with a choreographed dance number to a favorite song, Van Morrison's *Into the Mystic*. Under a large clear-top tent guests dined on a buffet that combined Lowcountry flavor and Manhattan flair, including a sushi buffet, small barbecue sandwiches, crab cakes, oysters, and roast beef. The signature drink of the evening was a spiced rum and ginger beer cocktail called *Dark and Stormy*, a nod to their weekend in Bermuda. With the southern location in mind, a large ice sculpture was created in the shape of an oak tree with the couple's names. Later in the evening after dancing with her father, Sarah and Kevin cut their four tiered dessert masterpiece by Jim Smeal. The layers each boasted a different flavor in lemon, chocolate, coconut and almond. A large fondant oak tree was the focal point, wrapping around the entire cake. Sarah and Kevin left the reception on a boat, crossing the waterway and ending the evening in their own unique adventurous style, making their way a little closer to their honeymoon in Africa. Needless to say, they were looking forward to the flight. **BAD**



Ceremony Site: Rockville Presbyterian Church. Gown: Junko Yokiosha. Boutique: Bonaparte NY. Bridesmaid Dresses: Vera Wang. Tuxedos: Berlins. Officiant: Dr. Danny Massie. Wedding Consultant: Melissa Barton, A Charleston Bride. Florist: Twigs and Ivy. Ceremony Musicians: 3 String Quartet and Linda Fassig (organ and piano). Reception Site: Family Home of Bride. Catering: Stephen Duvall Catering. Baker: Wedding Cakes by Jim Smeal. Reception Music: Coconut Grove Band. Party Rentals: Snyder Event Rentals. Favors: Donation to (African Charities) Global Partners. Invitations: Studio R Designs. Accommodations: Francis Marion Hotel and Vendue Inn.

**Photography: Art of Vision, [www.artofvision.net](http://www.artofvision.net).**



